

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the third full paragraph on page 1 as follows:

Plural compartment walls 106 with same thickness are vertically projected out of the heat conducting wall 102 with an even space in a radial manner into the center and plural compartment walls 107 with same thickness are vertically projected out of the heat conducting tube 104 at the center with an even space in a radial manner into the heat conducting wall 102. There are some spaces between the tip ends of opposing these compartment walls 106, 107 so as not to prevent the powdered or granular material from flowing (see Japanese Utility Model No.30578778 Reference 1).

Please amend the first full paragraph in the Brief Description of Drawings on page 4 as follows:

Fig. 1a [[Fig. 1]] is a vertical sectional view of one embodiment of a drying apparatus for powdered or granular material according to the present invention, Fig. 1a is its vertical sectional view and Fig. 1b is a cross sectional view of a heat conducting fin of the drying apparatus.

Please amend the second full paragraph in the Brief Description of Drawings on page 5 as follows:

Fig. 6a [[Fig. 6]] is a top view of the drying hopper of a vacuum-type automatic dehumidifying and drying apparatus for powdered or granular material according to the prior art, Fig.6a is its flat view and Fig. 6b is its vertical sectional view.

Please amend the fourth full paragraph on page 5 as follows:

Fig. 1a [[Fig. 1]] is a vertical sectional view of one embodiment of a drying apparatus for powdered or granular material according to the present invention, Fig. 1a is its vertical sectional view and Fig. 1b is a cross sectional view of a heat conducting fin of the drying apparatus.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 1a, the drying apparatus A has a tubular insulation material 2 outside of a hopper body 1 and a heat conducting fin 5 radially projecting plural compartment walls 4 hangs to be supported from a cover 13 with a handle 13a [[14]] at the center in the hopper body 1. The heat conducting fin 5 houses an electric heater 3 and a temperature sensor S in a penetrating path 6 at the center (see Fig. 1b). Carrier gas fed from an introduction port 7 provided at the upper part of the hopper body 1 is communicated in the penetrating path 6 to be exhausted in the hopper body 1 from plural exhaust ports 8 provided for a plug 10, provided at the bottom, into the hopper body 1. The penetrating path 6, the introduction port 7 and the exhaust ports 8 comprise a carrier gas communication path 9. The plug 10 is provided for the first-in and first-out manner of powdered or granular material contained in the hopper body 1 by its gravity.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 6 as follows:

The introduction port 7 is constructed such that a part of a three-way pipe 11 provided outside of the upper end of the tubular insulation material 2 is opened, the outside end in vertical direction of the three-way pipe 11 is closed, a carrier gas is introduced from the port 11a facing downward as an introduction port 7 and a communication path 12 is formed in horizontal direction into the central penetrating path 6.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 as follows:

The carrier gas is introduced into the heat conducting fin 5 at a normal temperature, is heated by the electric heater 3 in the heat conducting fin 5, and is exhausted out of the port 8 provided under the heat conducting fin 5. Thus the powdered or granular material is heated while the carrier gas passes through the hopper body 1. The electric heater 3 is feedback controlled by the temperature sensor S provided housed in the carrier gas communication path 9, so that the carrier gas is heated into the temperature substantially same as that of the electric heater 3 and the heat conducting fin 5 when it passes through the carrier gas communication path 9. The carrier gas is discharged from the port 8 and uniformly dries the powdered or granular material stored in the hopper 1 while passing upward therethrough. The carrier gas

passes upwardly in the hopper body 1 is exhausted from the upper end of the hopper body 1, however, it may be forcibly exhausted by means of a vacuum pump. In such a case, the carrier gas is controlled its passing amount by the vacuum pump, thereby achieving efficient drying process.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 as follows:

As shown in the figure, the hopper body 1 is constructed such that the bottom part 1a like a reverse cone provided above the material feed pipe 17 [[21]] and the tubular container body 1b provided thereon are connected with a hinge 18 and the they are detachable by means of three snap locks 19 provided around the hopper body 1. When the snap locks 19 are released and the tubular container body 1b is inclined as shown with two-dotted lines in the figure, the inside of the bottom part 1a is exposed, thereby facilitating cleaning in the hopper body 1 with cleaning means. After cleaning, the tubular container body 1b is placed on the bottom part 1a and the snap locks 19 are fastened again, the drying apparatus becomes its original shape to prepare a dry process. In this embodiment, the snap lock 19 is used, however, any known fastening means like bolts and nuts may be used.

Please amend the fourth full paragraph on page 9 as follows:

The material supply means 21 has an ejector nozzle by which the powdered or granular material stored in the hopper body 1 is forcibly suck and discharged when a pressurized gas introduced from outside is fed from a suction port 21a.

Please amend the fifth full paragraph on page 9 as follows:

According to such constructed material circulation feeder unit 20, when the resin material dried in the hopper body 1 is stopped to be fed in the molding machine, the material supply means 21 is operated to forcibly suck the dried material under the hopper body 1 and to circulate and return the material in the hopper body 1 through the collector 22, thereby preventing a bridging phenomenon in the hopper body 1 before happens. One side of the collector 22 is connected to an exhaust pipe 24a [[25]] having a filter 24, so that the powder or dust are removed by means of the filter 24 and are discharged outside.

Please add the following new paragraph after the third full paragraph on page 10:

After the material is discharged into the material storage tank 28 and stored therein, the discharge hose 29 is connected to the connection port 22a of the collector 22, the open end 29a of the hose 29 is connected to a material supply port 28a of the material storage tank 28 to be sucked into the collector 22, thereby collecting the powdered or granular material.